

Program Announcements (PA'S)

MINORITY INVESTIGATOR RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT AWARD

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P.T. 34, FF; K.W. 0710030

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

DESCRIPTION

The Minority Investigator Research Enhancement Award (MIREA) provides support for faculty members of minority institutions to allow them to collaborate with principal investigators of active research grants funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) or the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Any domestic institution wishing to include faculty of minority institutions in one of its NIAMS- or NIDDK-funded research projects may submit a supplemental grant application for this purpose. Approved applications will be funded as supplements to active NIAMS or NIDDK grants. These may include, but are not limited to, individual project (R01, R37), program project (P01), and center (P30, P50, P60) grants.

OBJECTIVES

The MIREA is part of an overall NIAMS and NIDDK effort to strengthen biomedical research and training in institutions with significant commitments to minorities and thereby to increase the participation of minority scientists in biomedical research. The MIREA supports faculty members of minority institutions (hereafter referred to as "minority investigators") to collaborate with principal investigators currently funded by NIAMS or NIDDK research grants or center programs. The MIREA is intended for minority investigators who have completed their training but who have not served as principal investigators on NIH regular research grants. The MIREA is intended to enhance opportunities for long-term productive collaborations among investigators and eventually to increase the number of minority investigators holding research grants.

DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS OF AWARD

1. Minority Institution

A minority institution is defined as a medical or non-medical college, university or equivalent school in which students of underrepresented minorities (including but not limited to Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, and Pacific Islanders) comprise the majority or significant proportion of the school enrollment and which has a commitment to the special encouragement of minority faculty, students and investigators. The commitment of the institution to the faculty candidate's research and development must be clearly presented in the application, including a statement from the candidate's supervisor.

2. Minority Investigator

A minority investigator is defined as a faculty member of a minority institution who is engaged in biomedical research. Candidates for this award would be minority investigators who: (1) are citizens of the United States or permanent residents at the time of application, (2) have a doctoral degree or equivalent in a biomedical or behavioral science, and (3) have the background to benefit from this program. The minority investigator should not already have spent an extended period of time in the applicant's laboratory and should not have been principal investigator on any NIH regular research grant. This does not exclude from candidacy minority investigators who have been supported by the NIH Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program, the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program, training grants, fellowships or other similar awards. The program will not pay stipends for student trainees nor support Candidates without previous research experience.

3. Principal Investigator

Principal investigators of active NIAMS or NIDDK grants are eligible to submit supplemental applications on behalf of a minority investigator. Although not excluded, MIREA applications from principal investigators in the final year of their project period will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

4. Research Project

The proposed research project for the supplement must be closely related to the currently funded research grant. It may represent an increased effort relative to an already approved objective of the research project or propose to enhance the effectiveness of the overall research. The proposed investigation must provide the minority investigator an opportunity to contribute intellectually to the program and to enhance his/her own potential as an independent investigator. The scope of the proposed work should be consistent with the minority investigator's

proposed level of effort and length of tenure in the principal investigator's laboratory.

5. Length of Tenure

The length of tenure should not be less than three months nor more than 15 months. Short tenures (3-4 months) must represent the full-time effort of the minority investigator. For longer tenures, part-time commitments are acceptable but should not normally be less than 25 percent effort for any part of the award period.

6. Project Report

The principal investigator will prepare (at the time of the annual report and/or final progress report) a section summarizing the work conducted during the tenure of the minority investigator. This portion of the report should include, but not be limited to, the following elements: 1) a summary of the research project; 2) a summary of all pertinent results; 3) titles and/or copies of manuscripts or publications resulting from this research association; and 4) a statement of how the research experience will be integrated into the minority investigator's long-range or continuing research efforts.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications submitted in response to this announcement will be reviewed for eligibility by the NIAMS/NIDDK Minority Affairs Advisory Committee, a committee comprised of intramural and extramural staff, using the following criteria:

1. The proposed research as described in the supplemental application should fit within the general scope of the approved and funded project.
2. The qualifications of the principal investigator and the minority investigator should indicate a high likelihood that the proposed work will be successful.
3. The proposed work should further the objectives of the MIREA program.
4. The length of time and budget requested should be appropriate for the proposed work.

Where questions of scientific content or expansion of project scope are involved, a review by non-Federal scientists will also be conducted, with subsequent second-level review by the cognizant Advisory Council as necessary.

FUNDING

Successful applications will be funded as administrative supplements to the investigator's grant. The maximum award (total direct costs) is \$30,000 on an annualized basis, with projects of less or greater than a 12-month duration prorated accordingly. Awards made under this program are for the sole purpose of facilitating participation by minority investigators as described above.

HOW TO APPLY

All potential applicants are encouraged to contact one of the program staff representatives listed below prior to preparing the application:

Dr. Steven Hausman
Deputy Director, Extramural Activities Program
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 403
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7495

Dr. Anthony Demsey
Deputy Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 406
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7083

The principal investigator must submit a supplemental grant application through his/her institution, on Standard Form PHS 398, limited to the following: (1) face page -- Item 2 should give the grant number of the active grant and specifically state "Minority Investigator Research Enhancement Award" (for example: Grant Number R01AR12345-06, "Minority Investigator Research Enhancement Award"); (2) budget page; (3) complete curriculum vitae of the minority investigator; (4) statement of commitment and support from the minority investigator's institution; (5) an outline of the research project as it relates to the parent grant; and (6) the expected benefit of the research experience to the minority investigator and how it will be integrated into the minority investigator's long-range or continuing research efforts.

Applications may be submitted at any time. The requested start date for the supplemental application should be at least 90 days after the date of submission.

The original and four copies of the application should be sent to:

Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 240
Bethesda, Maryland 20892**

Two copies of the application should be sent to the program staff person listed above who was contacted for information prior to preparation of the application.

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, 13.846, 13.847, 13.848, and 13.849. Grants are awarded under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, Section 301 (42 USC 241) and administered under PHS grant policies and Federal Regulations, most specifically at 42 CFR Part 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency review.